



season of  
**creation**

Presenter

**Pastor Jeff Schlesinger**

*Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish*

Immanuel Lutheran, Compton, Illinois

&

First Lutheran, Lee, Illinois

**Adding Season of Creation to  
your Liturgical Calendar**

# Peaceful Places



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**Who I am**

*and*

**My Ecotheography**



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**Why?**

Q - Why do we do confession and forgiveness in the liturgy?

A - So we can be a forgiving people during our every day lives.



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**Why?**

Q - Why do we do the Kyrie in the liturgy?

A - So we can be merciful in our every day lives.



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**Why?**

- Q - Why do we share the peace in worship?
- A - So we can be a peaceful and kind people in our every day lives.



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**Why?**

Q - Why do we have an offering in worship in worship?

A - So that we are generous in our every day lives.



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The liturgy is our  
Sunday practice for  
living as disciples of  
Jesus on the  
weekdays.

**Why?**

*Therefore...*





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**Why?**

Q - Why should we consider celebrating a liturgical "Season of Creation"?

A - So that we love God's glorious Creation in our everyday lives.



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**Why?**

“Decomartmentalization”

John 3:16

For God so loved the

*cosmos*

that God gave the only son...

Trees:

- Release 29 tons of oxygen/day for one square mile of forest

Humans:

- Breathe 2 lbs. of oxygen/day



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## Why?

### **Resolution – “Season of Creation”**

**WHEREAS**, Genesis states that all creation is “good;” and,

**WHEREAS**, as Christians we begin our confession with praise for God as the creator of all things; and,

**WHEREAS**, Luther teaches us in the explanation to the first article of the creed that we ought to thank and praise, serve and obey this creator God; and,

**WHEREAS**, worship is our primary forum for giving thanks and praise to God; and,

**WHEREAS**, prominent Lutheran theologians have provided a liturgical and homiletical framework to offer thanks and praise to God for the goodness of creation<sup>1</sup>;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern Illinois Synod encourage each of its member congregations to observe the “Season of Creation” as a regular part of the liturgical year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northern Illinois Synod provide resources and learning opportunities to facilitate congregations in conducting the “Season of Creation.”



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**What?**

*A four-week season  
focused on different  
aspects of Creation  
designed to fit into  
the three year cycle  
of the Revised  
Common Lectionary*

# Season of Creation Lectionary

## Year A (*Matthew*)

Sunday in Creation	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
(1 <sup>st</sup> ) Forest	Genesis 2:4b-22	Psalm 139:13-16	Acts 17:22-28	John 3:1-16
(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Land	Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16	Psalm 139:7-12	Romans 5:12-17	Matthew 12:38-40
(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Wilderness	Joel 1:8-10, 17-20	Psalm 18:6-19	Romans 8:18-27	Matt 3:13-4:2 or Mark 1:9-13
(4 <sup>th</sup> ) River	Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17	Psalm 104:27-33	Revelation 22:1-5	Matthew 28:1-10

## Year B (*Mark*)

Sunday in Creation	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
(1 <sup>st</sup> ) Planet Earth	Genesis 1:1-25	Psalm 33:1-9	Romans 1:18-23	John 1:1-14
(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Humanity	Genesis 1:26-28	Psalm 8	Philippians 2:1-8	Mark 10:41-45
(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Sky	Jeremiah 4:23-28	Psalm 19:1-6	Philippians 2:14-18	Mark 15:33-39
(4 <sup>th</sup> ) Mountain	Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 48:1-11	Romans 8:28-39	Mark 16:14-18

## Year C (*Luke*)

Sunday in Creation	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
(1 <sup>st</sup> ) Ocean	Job 38:1-18	Psalm 104:1-9, 24-26	Ephesians 1:3-10	Luke 5:1-11
(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Animal	Job 39:1-8, 26-30	Psalm 104:14-23	1 Corinthians 1:10-23	Luke 12:22-31
(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Storm	Job 28:20-27	Psalm 29	1 Corinthians 1:21-31	Luke 8:22-25
(4 <sup>th</sup> ) Universe	Proverbs 8:22-31	Psalm 148	Colossians 1:15-20	John 6:41-51



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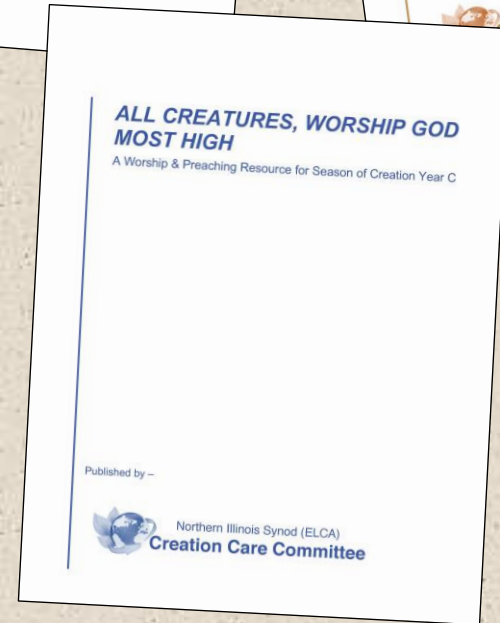
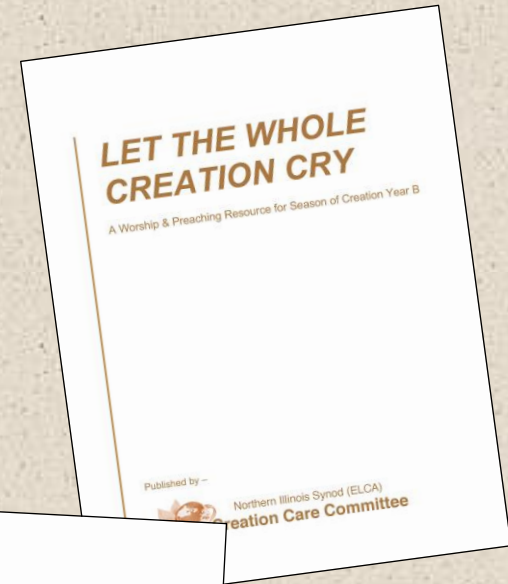
## **When?**

- **September**
  - *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September = Creation Sunday*
  - *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October = Saint Francis of Assisi Sunday*
- **Epiphany**
- **Lent Series**
- **Advent**
- **Easter Season** (*How many resurrection themes can we find in nature?*)



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# How?





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**How?**

- **Contents:**
  - Unique liturgies for each year including the propers for each Sunday
  - Seeds from the Text
  - Fruits for Preaching
  - Hymn suggestions
  - All sorts of other ideas:
    - Children's sermons & books
    - Field trips & Service projects
    - Adult Forum ideas





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## **How?**

- **The Retreat Model:**
  - Four+ Days
  - 8-12 Clergy and worship leaders who agree to do Season of Creation at their congregation
  - Work on one Sunday per day with liturgical pieces divided up among the days
  - Consider engaging a retreat coordinator and/or resident theologian
  - Putting the final resources together occurs after the retreat



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**Questions then Samples**  
**– or visa versa**



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**How?**

**Samples**

## **Call to Worship**

We enter the song of Creation!

**Earth cradles our ancestors,  
birthing new life.**

We enter the prayer of Creation!

**Sky brings darkness and light,  
holds storms and the stars.**

We enter the praise of Creation!

**Mountains peaked with snow,  
hills swaying with grasses.**

We enter the silence of Creation!

**Humanity between the ground  
and the heavens.**

We come here, humbly, as one earthly family to worship our Creator: the giver of form, the maker of space.

**Amen.**



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**How?**

**Samples**

## Mountain Sunday Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray. Creator God,  
you are made known on your  
holy mountain where you call  
us to see the world with new  
hope and perspective.  
Transform and renew us with  
authority to declare your  
vision for the earth and to  
repair the damage done to  
your good Creation. Amen.



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# How?

## Samples

## Sky Sunday – Hymn Suggestions

Sky Sunday Hymn Suggestions	Gathering	Song of Day	Offering/Communion	Sending
Morning Has Broken ELW 556	X			
Many and Great ELW 837	X	X		
God who Stretched the Spangled Heavens ELW 771	X	X		X
Bright and Glorious Is the Sky ELW 301		X		
Let the Whole Creation Cry ELW 876	X			X
God Created Heaven and Earth ELW 738		X	X	
Before the Waters Nourished Earth ACS 1049	X	X	X	
Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping ACS 1050		X	X	
The Heavens Tell of Your Creative Glory ACS 1070		X		X
In Sacred Manner ACS 1071		X		
When a Star Is Shining ACS 915		X		
In Deepest Night ELW 699		X	X	
Watch, O Lord 996			X	X
Oh, Sing to God Above ELW 555	X			X
God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven ELW 564	X			X
When Twilight Comes ELW 566	X	X		



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# How?

## Samples

## Other Ideas and Resources Earth Sunday

Children's books:

- *The Earth Book* by Todd Parr
- *Jesus the Word* by Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones
- *When God was a Little Girl* by David R. Weiss
- *When God Made Light* Matthew Paul Turner

Field trips: (leave no trace behind!)

- Starved Rock State Park, Franklin Creek, LOMC
- Other parks and forest preserves
- Take drone pictures of your neighborhood or look at Google earth

Ideas for Children's Sermons:

- Talk about Earth Day (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was 2020)
- Look at a bucket of soil and touch it, talk about it
- Talk about composting (maybe show a composting worm bin or other bin)
- Have children draw around their foot and talk about carbon footprints
- Show the children a globe and talk about the parts of our earth



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**How?**

Q - How do I get hold of this material?



A - Go to:

[www.nisynod.org/creation](http://www.nisynod.org/creation)

If you would like to talk to me about leading a retreat...

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**Questions?**





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*Northern Illinois Synod*  
**Creation Care  
Committee**

Presenter

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*Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish*

*Immanuel, Compton & First, Lee*

**Questions?**



Northern Illinois Synod (ELCA)

## Creation Care Committee



[www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org)



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# How?

## Samples

### Benediction

The God of all creation:

Of flowers and trees, of butterflies  
and bees, of squirrels and  
mountain lions,

bless you, keep you, and  
strengthen you

for the work of loving all Creation.

In the name of the + Triune God.

**Amen**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for Creation.

**Thanks be to God.**